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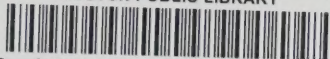
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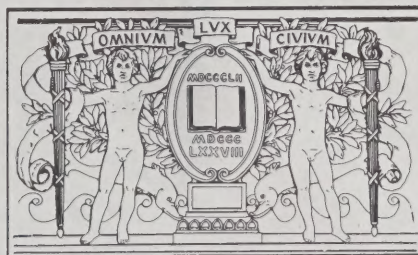
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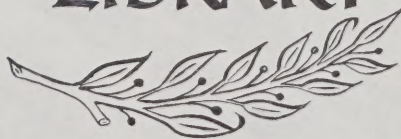
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CITY OF BOSTON AND COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
 DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

May 29, 1970

TO	(NAME) Kevin H. White	(RATING) Mayor	(DEPARTMENT-DIVISION) City of Boston
FROM	A. Reginald Eaves	Administrator	Office of Human Rights

SUBJECT: Report of Incidents May 10, 1970 in the Hemenway Street area **FILE REF. No.**
with recommendations to prevent recurrence of said incidents

1. THE INCIDENT

Because of the mass of factual information contained in this report, we cannot say with absolute certainty that it is accurate down to the minutest detail of time or the like; however, large numbers of reliable witnesses related this information to us and signed statements to this effect, most of the facts have been corroborated by at least a dozen witnesses.

Sunday night May 10th marked the fourth night that students congregated on Hemenway Street in Boston to dance, play frisbee and demonstrate. The size of the crowd varied from 200 to 400 persons. Prior to midnight there were a number of disturbances caused by the crowd:

- a) A group of 30 students blocked traffic on the street.
- b) A police cruiser that drove through at 10:30 had objects hurled at it.
- c) A flaming mattress was hurled from the roof of # 120.
- d) A false alarm was called in and the fire trucks were also harassed.
- e) Garbage was thrown on the street by some individuals, but removed by the crowd.

At midnight approximately 60 members of the tactical Police Force plus 60 officers from Station 4 began grouping at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Westland. They charged a crowd of about 300 students at 12:45 (some reporters contended that the "crowd" was not descriptive of these persons because they were not together in a group, but rather in small groups on the sidewalks). The police raced up and down the street a number of times. When they had cleared the street, they found that they still had to deal with the resistance of a small group of students who were hurling objects at them.

Their response to this problem was wholly inappropriate and was the cause of most of the damage resulting from this incident.

At approximately 1:00 A. M. the police were reported as having been engaged in the following activities:

a) At # 120 Hemenway Street, a Northeastern University Dorm, the police screamed obscenities to some people at the windows. One officer then yelled, "Let's get up to the second floor - break those doors." 10 - 20 policemen then broke the front door down and went up to the second floor. They entered one room, smashed a typewriter and threw a chair out of the window. They broke windows, doors, door knobs and other objects in the hall including the fire alarm which then went off (it is not clear if this was the same alarm that was reported to have gone off earlier). They attempted to enter a second room which students had barrocaded, but were unable to do so. They then threatened to shoot through the door, but did not do so. Many people reported having seen concealed arms on the officers.

b) The police also entered a dorm at 153 Hemenway Street where Northeastern's Asst. Director of Housing, David Robbins, who was at the time attempting to call students back into the dorms was beaten by police. Eric Porter, a graduate student and dorm director was also beaten inside the dorm.

c) An elderly couple at 157 Hemenway Street (who refused to have their names used) had their apartment broken into by TPF police who yelled "watch out" and then smashed the windows, furniture, and ripped pictures off the wall.

d) Innumerable witnesses mentioned that the TPF occupied rooftops of a number of buildings and hurled rocks and other debris down on the street at parked cars and people.

The police also threw rocks from the street at both empty windows and windows which people were looking out of. A 35 year old Army Reserve Officer reported one such incident to me: "A kid was looking out of a closed window. An officer yelled get out of there and hurled a rock through the window at his face."

Addresses at which police were on the roof:

97	Hemenway Street	
113	"	"
115	"	"
103	"	"
107	"	"
120	"	"

Addresses at which police threw rocks through windows:

97	Hemenway Street	
115	"	"
163	"	"

TPF police also ran through a number of buildings - usually gaining entrance by breaking glass or wooden front and back doors - breaking all the windows and lights in

the hallways and putting holes in doors and breaking door knobs.

Mr. Michael Mandel and his wife Elizabeth who reside at 110 Gainsboro Street were near their apartment during the incidents which occurred on Sunday evening and early Monday morning. Mr. Mandel, who is blind, was sitting on the front steps of his apartment. His wife, Elizabeth, was a few yards in front of him standing on the sidewalk. She observed the police coming down Gainsboro Street and immediately went back and got her husband and brought him back into the vestibule of the apartment. They were attempting to get the lock on their apartment door open when several policemen broke through the two glass outer doors (one open, one locked) and began indiscriminately beating residents. Mr. Mandel had his head split open and was hit several times on the body. Mrs. Mandel was also hit on the head and body. They both required hospitalization at Massachusetts General Hospital.

John Albert Freeman, who resides at 120 Hemenway Street went back into his apartment when the police gave the order to clear the streets. He went into his apartment along with Ruth and Larry Febrman, friends who were visiting at the time. Mr. Freeman closed and locked the door. The door was smashed open and 6-8 policemen entered the apartment and without provocation began beating the people in the apartment. Extensive property damage was done to the apartment (record players, pianos, etc.) by the police. Everyone in the apartment required hospitalization (Beth Israel).

Bill Nickerson of 111 Gainsboro Street was in the doorway of his apartment when he observed the police clearing the streets. He went into his apartment along with several other people and locked the door. The door was smashed open and around six or seven policemen entered and began beating Mr. Nickerson and everyone else in the apartment. There was no provocation by Mr. Nickerson or anyone in the apartment. He required hospitalization at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

The police confronted students at a number of buildings as far as three blocks from the center of the disturbances, shouting to young people to come down and fight, and calling them assorted obscenities.

Police were also noticed molesting individuals on the street, in the park, and in alleyways. People on the street observing were pushed into apartments or chased from the streets, rooftops, and windows. At least 8 such separate incidents were reported. Only two of those incidents involved persons under 23 years old.

The police then deserted the area and regrouped near Westland and Hemenway Streets. They returned again around 1:15 A.M. and repeated those activities. Someone from the Mayor's Office of Human Rights with one other person arrived at 1:30. The area was generally quiet at that time. The TPF left the area at 1:45. Around 2:00 A.M. the police returned to the area for the third time. They were not responding to a serious disturbance at that time. Virtually no one was on the street. Small numbers of people were on their front steps and the like. They returned without warning and cleared people off. The

people from the Mayor's Office got separated. One was trapped in the hallway of 108 Hemenway by the police. When ordered to go to her apartment, she responded that she did not live there. A policeman then kicked in the door of a couple (approximately 70-80 years old) and told her to go in there. The other person from the Mayor's Office hid in a different apartment and got assistance which finally resulted in the police leaving the area between 2:30 and 2:45. From 2:00 to that time they occupied the rooftops, hurling rocks down on the street, the hallways and alleyways breaking lights, doors, and windows.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The solution to problems of this character, which result in cries from liberals for changes, varying from a civilian review board to the dissolution of the police force, fail to address the problem as a whole. The role and personnel of the entire political system and the manner in which they related to each other requires serious reconsideration. We cannot expect the police to carry out legislative and executive order by physical enforcement of laws alone and hope to avoid aberrations of this sort.

As we are examining our cities and ourselves as a nation and attempting to lead ourselves in new directions, we must allow the police to do the same. If we use them exclusively to impose order on a situation marked by change, we ourselves are the authors of the situation of conflict within which the police find themselves. What we have done to our police over the past 50 years may have been worse than that. We have both asked them to do those things and attacked and criticized them. Their reaction can only be defensive in such a situation. We have forced them to fight for the anonymity of no name tags and the false security of no civilian review.

The events of the past year ought to have demonstrated that further alienation will be the only product of an approach that exclusively moves in that direction. If name tags and better review of police activities is what we now need, we can only hope to ask for them as a part of a larger program that attempts both to integrate the police into the process of social change and to integrate ourselves into the process of social control.

I recommend that such review, be it by the Mayor's Office or the Finance Commission, be only one part of the following changes:

a) New position in Police Department. (1) Department Superintendent for Community Affairs and Auxiliary Police Relations. (2) Two Captains, (a) one for auxiliary police neighborhood and university programs, (b) one for auxiliary police from OES, YAC, MOHR, etc. police department exchange program. (3) Two Lieutenants to work with above program (2)(a) and one to work with above program (2)(b).

b) Appointment and funding of more Sergeants for regular work.

c) Creation of 20 year retirement-at-1/2 pay plan for police (or some variation thereof) with incentives to remain in public service.

d) Program allowing police at all levels of rank to take up to 20% of their regular work time off from regular duty to work on suitable programs under the direction of YAC, MOHR, Summerthing, OPS, and the like. The program should include: (a) Appropriate provisions for training of policemen for performing such jobs. (b) Sensitivity and training and instruction in psychology for all members of the police force; sensitivity examinations for the same and special programs of instruction for those the tests indicate might most benefit from them. (c) Similarly, more complete examinations for all those applying to the force or recommended for promotion.

e) Recruitment of auxiliary police forces by universities and OPS. Offices to assist police in day-to-day work and during sensitive situations (a) Training by personnel in a) (1), (2) and (3).

f) Recruitment of staff personnel from MOHR, YAC, and OPS to fill positions on the force as auxiliary police drivers, desk men, and other less specialized positions in proportion to the number of police officers who join their department. (a) Training of those individuals by personnel in a) (1), (2) and (3), police academy, and others. (b) Hiring of or training of more specialists to fill time of those specialists who opt for 20% time option.

g) Education: (a) more frequent return to academy for retraining for all policemen, especially those being promoted. (b) training in d) (a), (b) and (c). (c) Public meetings - see i).

h) Reports: (a) availability of police internal investigations (censored where appropriate) to Mayor's Office, Mayor's Office of Human Rights, and Finance Commission, and reporting of changes made as a result of any given investigation.

i) Large, more frequent meetings between police (not just officers) auxiliaries, participants, and others affected in the community prior to demonstrations and after them when a disturbance has occurred. These should be city-sponsored, perhaps by the Mayor's Office of Human Rights, OPS and Traffic Departments.

j) Opening of new OPS and Mayor's Office of Human Rights community officers in police stations to handle those problems that could come either to police or OPS - Mayor's Office of Human Rights offices.

k) Use of sewn name plates by all members of the B. P. D. at all times in uniform.

